

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

This paper is submitted responsive to the Official Action mailed April 7, 2004.

Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner rejected various claims of the application as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,820,352 to Gunn et al., and rejected other claims as obviated by a combination of Gunn et al. with secondary prior art references.

In accordance with the present invention, a system and method are provided whereby specific sensor input is obtained from a compressor during operation, and this input is fed to a protection module which is adapted to detect conditions requiring immediate and/or prognostic actions.

In instances where immediate protection is needed, the compressor can be shut down. In other conditions, prognostic protection is appropriate and operation of the compressor can be continued, perhaps at different operating parameters, while a call for maintenance is issued so that the problem can be addressed without interruption of the compressor.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention is provided as a module for communicating with an existing compressor to provide the desired protection. Thus, the present invention contemplates modular and after-market applications which are not possible with hard wired or integrated systems such as the teaching of Gunn et al.

Gunn et al. teach a detailed process for controlling discharge pressure. Any similar subject matter to that of

the present claims is hard wired or integrated into the system of Gunn et al., with no suggestion of adaptation to the scope of the present claims on this feature.

The independent claims of the present invention are drawn to a system and apparatus wherein the desired protection is incorporated into a module, rather than hard wired into a particular system or the like. This allows for aftermarket installations and is a distinction from the art of record which is not disclosed or suggested by same.

New dependent claims have been added which are drawn to the particular modular aspect of the invention, wherein the module is mounted adjacent to a compressor chassis.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

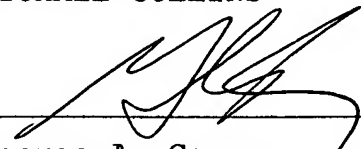
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on October 7, 2004


George A. Coury